II. <u>AMENDMENT</u>

A. Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph before paragraph 1 of the specification:

This application was originally filed as a U.S. provisional patent application on August 31, 2000, and assigned serial no. 60/229,483. The U.S. provisional patent application was then converted on May 29, 2001, to a U.S. non-provisional patent application by petition.